

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00837 241445 Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSCE-00 NSC-10 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 RSR-01

NEA-06 PM-03 /064 W

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R 241452 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0229

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBURAY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0837

LIMDIS

NORFORN

E. O.#11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: ANOTHER CRISIS IN RCC AND EGYPTIAN/ LIBYAN
RELATIONS?

SUMMARY: QADHAFI'S SUDDEN TRAVEL TO EGYPT JUNE 22,
PLUS THE LOCAL MEDIA'S SILENCE ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES SINCE
ABOUT JUNE 14, HAVE LED TO SPECULATION THAT HE AGAIN FELL
OUT WITH THE REST OF THE RCC AND IN EFFECT HAS FLED
TO EGYPT. THERE MAY BE NOTHING TO THESE SPECULATIONS
BUT IN ABSENCE OF RELIABLE INFORMATION, AND BECAUSE
THERE IS AT LEAST SOME INTERNAL CONSISTENCY AMONG THEM
AND THEY DO ACCOUNT FOR SOME APPARENT FACTS, WE REPORT
THEM -- BUT WITH A STRONG REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION
OF SWEEPING CONCLUSIONS THEREFROM. WOULD ALSO
POINT OUT THAT, EVEN IF TRUE, SIMILAR CRISES HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00837 241445 Z

WEATHERED BEFORE BOTH BY RCC AND THE PROSPECTIVE UNION.

1. VETERAN, LEVEL- HEADED AMERICAN OIL COMPANY PRESIDENT CALLED ON CHARGE JUNE 24 TO PASS ALONG STORY HE SAID GIVEN HIM BY LIBYAN INFORMANTS WHO AMONG HIS MOST TRUSTED. (COMMENT: BELIEVE THEY ARE HIS SENIOR LIBYAN OFFICERS, PRESENT OR OF RECENT PAST.) ACCORDING THESE SOURCES, WHO AGREE, SADAT TOLD QADHAFI WHEN THEY MET AT TRIPOLI JUNE 10-11, IN CAPACITY AS HIGHER POLITICAL COMMAND OF MERGER, THAT WHILE EGYPT CONTINUED FAVOR UNION IT COULD NOT CONTEMPLATE GIVING QADHAFI OR ANY OTHER RCC MEMBER ANY SENIOR POSITION IN NEW UARG. THE REASONS WAS THAT QADHAFI IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A DISRUPTIVE FORCE WITH HIS POPULAR REVOLUTION AND OTHER KNOWN PROGRAMS, PLUS HIS PROPENSITY TO LAUNCH PRECIPITATE ACTIONS. (SOURCE COMMENT: IF YOU THINK THAT HARD TO BELIEVE, WAIT TILL YOU HEAR THIS ONE, FROM SAME SUBSOURCES). QADHAFI' S REACTION WAS ACQUIESCENCE -- ON THE GROUND THAT ALL HE WAS REALLY INTERESTED IN WAS ARAB UNITY AND IF HE HAD TO STEP ASIDE TO ACHIEVE IT, SO BE IT. PROBLEM AROSE, HOWEVER WHEN QADHAFI TRIED TO SELL THIS POSITION TO OTHER MEMBERS OF RCC. THEY INSISTED BOTH HE AND THEY SHOULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL POSITIONS. QADHAFI THEN " WITHDREW" FROM RCC AND TOOK HIS FAMILY TO AREA OF GERIYAN, 50 MILES SOUTH OF TRIPOLI.

2. OVER WEEKEND WE HEARD QADHAFI WAS " IN DETENTION", THE STORY BEING TRACED BACK TO AN INTELLIGENT BUT NOT NECESSARILY WELL- INFORMED ITALIAN LAD OF LONG RESIDENCE HERE. JUNE 24, HOWEVER, ITALIAN CHARGE SURFACED ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY, SAYING HIS EMBASSY HEARD FROM " MANY LIBYAN CONTACTS" THAT QADHAFI HAD HOLED UP OR BEEN HELD AT GERIYAN FOUR DAYS. ITALIAN CHARGE' S ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS THAT QADHAFI' S SUDDEN DEPARTURE FOR EGYPT, YET TO BE ANNOUNCED BY LOCAL MEDIA, WAS IN COMPANY OF HIS FAMILY AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS (GHANEM AND MARWAN) BUT NO REPEAT NO LIBYAN OFFICIALS. IMPLICATION, HE THOUGHT, WAS THAT QADHAFI HAD IN EFFECT FLED LIBYA, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. HOWEVER, HE TOO

SECRET

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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00837 241445 Z

IS JUMPING TO NO CONCLUSIONS.

3. MEANWHILE, IT CAN BE STATED AS AN OBSERVED FACT THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO VISIBLE INDICATION IN TRIPOLI OR ITS ENVIRONS OF ANY INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL CRISIS; ALSO THE LIBYAN MEDIA AND BUREAUCRACY ARE BEHAVING VERY NORMALLY BY THEIR OWN STANDARDS. WE WOULD THUS BE VERY SURPRISED IF QADHAFI STAYED ABROAD,

BUT NOT SURPRISED IF THE REST OF THE STORY WERE
PARTIALLY TRUE. IT NOT INCONSISTENT WITH CAIRO' S 1868,
JUST RECEIVED.
JOSIF

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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